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DORCHESTER
RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL



ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

for the Year

1959



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STAFF - PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Medical Officer of Health (Part time) I. B. LAWRENCE, B.Sc., M.B., D.P.H.

Also Medical Officer of Health for Dorchester Borough Council and
Assistant County Medical Officer of Health. Time allocated for
duties with your Council, four half days per week.

Clerical Assistant for Medical Officer Miss M. A. SMITH

Same allocation of time as Medical Officer of Health.

Senior Public Health Inspector N. RAWLINS, M.A.P.H.I.

Additional Public Health Inspectors J. M. STAMP, M.A.P.H.I.
J. B. SALT, M.A.P.H.I., A.R.S.H.

Clerical Assistants for Inspectors Miss K. R. BROOKS
S. A. W. BROWN
Mrs. J. K. BROWN (Resigned 8.8.59)

D. J. PROWSE (Appointed 10.8.59)
Rodent Operators E. BUDDEN
A. J. WATSON

The Public Health Inspectors are engaged on full time duties.

Tel: Dorchester 1000
Saturdays a.m. - 1014

County Clinic,
Glyde Path Road,
Dorchester.

To The Chairman and Members of
The Dorchester Rural District Council

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present my tenth Annual Report on the Health and Sanitary conditions of the Rural District of Dorchester for the year 1959. It is written on the lines suggested by the Ministry of Health.

The incidence of infectious disease has been very varied during the year. Of the notifiable diseases, a number of measles cases were reported in April and May; eight cases of food poisoning occurred in August, the organism causing the disease was not of the type commonly found in this country. An outbreak of dysentery (sonne type) commenced in November associated with similar cases in the Borough of Dorchester, in all 19 villages were involved; it continued until the end of March 1960.

Influenza was very prevalent in February and March, the older children were first affected and later adults and younger children were involved. Sixteen deaths were attributed to influenza.

In July and August a number of children of school age were reported as suffering from an illness resembling poliomyelitis. Two cases were admitted to hospital, investigation proved they were not due to poliomyelitis and it was thought to be a virus infection.

Seven cases of lung tuberculosis were notified and of these four were over 70 years of age.

The number of animals slaughtered and inspected has again increased, this year reaching the figure of 41,552. This has become a full time job for one inspector.

A further housing survey report was made by the Senior Public Health Inspector, in which another 153 houses were added to the 178 houses reported last year, making a total of 331. Again they were placed in various categories and the necessary action recommended under the Housing Acts, of these 130 were already being dealt with by the Council leaving 201 still requiring action.

There are about 800 caravans in the district, the majority on licenced sites. An appreciable amount of time is spent by the Public Health Inspectors in checking these caravans and they have worked hard over a period of years to bring them up to a good standard.

During the year, 2,771 vaccinations against poliomyelitis were given to persons in the Rural District, 1,775 being booster doses. The response has been quite satisfactory up to the 25 years age group. In addition to these, quite a large number of injections have been given by the patients' own doctors.

A talk using visual aids was given on poliomyelitis in one village and over a hundred persons attended.

Attendance at the Mass Radiography Unit in October from the Borough and Rural District was 3,255; males being 1,659, females being 1,596 and of these 1,924 had been X-rayed before. In addition, visits are made to various hospitals and institutions. A recent innovation has been the fortnightly visit of a smaller unit to Dorchester to which local doctors can refer cases. No separate figures are available for this district but for the Wessex Regional Hospital Area, the number of cases in 1959 of lung tuberculosis discovered was 122, this represents a rate of 2.33 per thousand. Of these, 47 were diagnosed as active. Other abnormalities numbered 316, this included 37 cases of lung cancer, this was the highest figure ever recorded for this disease.

Further to my last year's report on atomic radiation, a local liaison committee has been formed with the Winfrith Atomic Energy Establishment which includes representatives from local public bodies and services including your own authority. They agreed to draw up a scheme to deal with the health, safety and public relations. This has since been completed and a statement to the local press was given in June 1960.

I again would like to thank the Chairman and Members of the Council for their understanding and help during the year, also Mr. Rawlins and the rest of the Public Health Staff for their combined efforts and my colleagues on the staff for their ready co-operation.

Your obedient Servant,

J. B. Lawrence
Medical Officer of Health.

GENERAL STATISTICS

(Figures for 1958 shown in brackets)

Area	...	...	...	...	128,606 acres
Resident Population	...	...	...	17,330	(17,190)
Number of houses inhabited at the end of 1959				5,358	(5,326)
Rateable Value (31st March, 1960)	...	...	...	£148,054	(£132,132)
Sum represented by Penny Rate (1959-1960)	...	...	...	£550	(£522)

VITAL STATISTICS

Population - Estimate for Births and Deaths 17,330

Comparability Factor	Births	1.25
	Deaths	0.70

<u>Births</u>	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Total</u>	
Legitimate	138	124	262	
Illegitimate	<u>4</u>	<u>10</u>	<u>14</u>	
Totals	<u>142</u>	<u>134</u>	<u>276</u>	(271)

Still Births

Legitimate	2	3	5	
Illegitimate	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	
Totals	<u>2</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>5</u>	(10)

<u>Deaths</u> - All Causes	112	147	259	(258)
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Deaths of Infants under 1 year (Infant Mortality)

Legitimate	3	6	9	
Illegitimate	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	
Totals	<u>3</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>9</u>	(5)

Deaths of Infants under 4 weeks (NeoNatal Mortality)

Legitimate	3	3	6	
Illegitimate	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	
Totals	<u>3</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>6</u>	(3)

Deaths of Infants under 1 week (Early Neo-Natal Mortality)

Legitimate	3	3	6	
Illegitimate	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	
Totals	<u>3</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>6</u>	

	<u>1959</u>	<u>1958</u>	<u>1957</u>
Birth Rate x Comparability Factor ...	19.7	19.7	20.5
Birth Rate for England and Wales ...	16.5	16.4	16.4
Death Rate x Comparability Factor ...	10.5	11.25	10.8
Death Rate for England and Wales ...	11.6	11.7	14.2
Infant Mortality Rate ...	32.6	19.0	18.0
Infant Mortality Rate for England and Wales...	22.0	22.5	23.0

DEATHS FROM ALL CAUSES

	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Total</u>	
Tuberculosis, respiratory...	-	1	1	(1)
Tuberculosis, other ...	-	-	-	(-)
Syphilitic disease ...	-	-	-	(1)
Diphtheria ...	-	-	-	(-)
Whooping Cough ...	-	-	-	(-)
Meningitis ...	-	-	-	(-)
Poliomyelitis ...	-	-	-	(-)
Measles ...	-	-	-	(-)
Other infective and parasitic diseases ...	1	1	2	(1)
Cancer of stomach ...	1	3	4	(5)
Cancer of lung, bronchus ...	10	1	11	(6)
Cancer of breast...	-	3	3	(6)
Cancer of uterus...	-	2	2	(3)
Other Cancers ...	9	9	18	(19)
Acute Anaemia ...	1	2	3	(-)
Diabetes ...	-	2	2	(1)
Vascular lesions of nervous system...	13	16	29	(44)
Coronary Disease, angina ...	14	15	29	(25)
High Blood Pressure with Heart Disease ...	1	3	4	(5)
Other Heart Disease ...	25	41	66	(73)
Other circulatory disease...	3	3	6	(8)
Influenza ...	7	9	16	(1)
Pneumonia ...	4	10	14	(3)
Bronchitis ...	3	1	4	(11)
Other diseases of respiratory system ...	-	5	5	(8)
Ulcer of stomach and duodenum ...	1	1	2	(5)
Gastritis, enteritis, diarrhoea ...	-	-	-	(-)
Nephritis and Nephrosis ...	-	1	1	(-)
Hyperplasia of prostate ...	2	-	2	(1)
Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion ...	-	-	-	(-)
Congenital malformations ...	1	1	2	(3)
Other defined and ill-defined diseases ...	13	13	26	(21)
Motor vehicle accidents ...	-	-	-	(3)
All other accidents ...	3	3	6	(3)
Suicide ...	-	1	1	(1)
All Causes ...	112	147	259	(258)

It is to be noted that deaths from Cancer of the lung are rising.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES

The following table summarises the notifications of infectious diseases made during the year :-

<u>Disease</u>	<u>Total Cases Notified</u>										<u>TOTAL</u>	<u>Cases</u>	<u>Deaths</u>
	<u>Age Periods</u>											<u>admitted</u>	
	<u>0-</u>	<u>1-</u>	<u>3-</u>	<u>5-</u>	<u>10-</u>	<u>15-</u>	<u>25-</u>	<u>45-</u>	<u>65+</u>	<u>A.U.</u>		<u>to</u>	
												<u>Hospital</u>	
Scarlet Fever	-	1	1	6	1	-	-	-	-	-	9	-	-
Whooping Cough	-	-	3	2	-	-	1	-	-	-	6	-	-
Measles	4	15	25	68	5	2	1	-	1	1	122	1	-
Pneumonia	1	-	-	-	-	2	3	1	1	-	8	1	14
Dysentery	1	2	3	6	2	-	1	1	-	-	16	-	-
Puerperal Pyrexia	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	2	-	-
Poliomyelitis	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Food Poisoning	-	-	-	1	-	1	1	3	2	-	8	-	-
Encephalitis	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Meningitis	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1	1	-
Erysipelas	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1	-	-

Of the eight cases of food poisoning, 5 were associated with a hospital, the organism causing the illness was one of the salmonella group of germs (saint paul) this particular germ is not commonly found in this country; in co-operation with the Public Health Laboratory Service who had been investigating similar sporadic outbreaks elsewhere, each case was checked regarding possible source, which involved various foods, meat, even animal foodstuffs, but after months of sampling, no definite source could be found. Close contact with the Ministry Medical Officers was also maintained.

With regard to virus infection resembling poliomyelitis, the first two cases were sent to hospital. Following investigation it came to light that a number of other cases had been occurring for over a month outside the district, but attended a central school. The symptoms were severe headache with a temperature, often abdominal pain with occasional vomiting and some had stiffness of the muscles of the neck. Various examinations carried out by the hospital proved they were not due to poliomyelitis.

TUBERCULOSIS

During the year 1959, the following cases and deaths from Tuberculosis were notified :- (figures for 1958 shown in brackets)

Age Periods	New Cases				Deaths			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
10	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
15	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
25	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
35	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
45	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
55	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
65	2	2	-	-	-	-	-	-
Age Unknown	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<hr/>								
TOTALS ..	3(-)	4(-)	-(-)	1(4)	-(-)	1(1)	-(-)	-(-)
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It is interesting to note that only one case of lung tuberculosis occurred in the teenage group which used to be the commonest age group. This may be due to the protection of B.C.G. Vaccination given in schools, better feeding, improvement in living conditions and regular checks with the Mass X-ray Unit, but it is significant that four out of the seven were over 70 years of age, again supporting my remarks in my 1957 Annual Report, advising that elderly persons with a chronic cough should attend for X-ray examination, as they may unwittingly spread tuberculosis to their own family or near friends.

LABORATORY FACILITIES

I wish to thank once again Dr. T. V. Cooper of the County Laboratory and Dr. G. H. Tee of the Public Health Laboratory and their staff for their continued help and co-operation during the year.

The following is a table of specimens submitted to the Laboratories:-
(Figures for 1958 shown in brackets)

Throat Swabs	...	15	(47)	Milk	...	199	(154)
Faeces	...	146	(9)	Ice Cream	...	5	(-)
Blood	...	5	(9)	Water	...	344	(584)
Sputum	...	94	(124)	Sewage	...	21	(-)
Miscellaneous	...	68	(40)				

HOUSING

<u>Council Houses</u>	<u>In process of erection.</u>	<u>Completed 1959</u>	<u>Completed since war.</u>
Temporary	-	-	-
Permanent --			
Traditional Type	18	24	467
Non-Traditional Type	-	-	60
Converted into flats	-	-	-
Hutted Camps (13 demolished)	-	-	5
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Number of Council Houses (pre-war)			199
Number of post war houses completed and occupied at 31.12.59.			527
Total number of Council Houses at 31.12.59.			726
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Improvement Grants

Number of dwellings in respect of which approval
was given during 1959

Discretionary Grants	55	
Standard Grants	<u>16</u>	71

Number of dwellings in respect of which approval
was given prior to 1959

414

485

Only 24 new Council Houses were completed during the year and only 18 in the process of erection, this was due to financial restrictions but I am sure all the members are in favour of the new drive with regular inspections by the Housing Inspection Sub-Committee of the houses reported and categorised under the Housing Act. Appropriate action will gradually eliminate the worst houses in the district.

It must also be remembered that a number of Council House improvement schemes are in hand and that a further 71 Improvement Grants were made during the year (55 discretionary, 16 standard) bringing the total to 485.

AMBULANCE SERVICES

To call the ambulance for routine work, ring Dorchester 1761-3, in an emergency ask the exchange for ambulance. Always state urgency, nature of case, full address and which ambulance is required, e.g. sitting or stretcher case.

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT

Only one case was brought to my notice and no action was required and the facts were reported to the Welfare Section of the County Council for their surveillance.

PUBLIC CLEANSING AND REFUSE DISPOSAL

No change has occurred during the year.

WATER SUPPLIES AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL

I am again indebted to Mr. Forbes the Council's Water Engineer, for the following information.

The provision of a water supply for Abbotsbury and Portesham is substantially completed and should soon be in commission.

Following a poor yield from the wells which were prospected for the supply of water for Minterne Magna and Lyons Gate, the scheme has been abandoned and the Council have decided to install a main scheme with the co-operation of Sturminster Newton Rural District Council's supply at Wootton Glanvilles.

Under Section 37 of the Water Act, a supply of water was provided to a farm in Minterne Magna.

At Cattistock village, 3" main extensions were made to Meadow View council houses and a private estate at Rectory Drive.

The Broadmayne sewerage scheme has been completed apart from one or two minor alterations and should soon be in full commission.

The extension of the main sewer to Cattistock from Maiden Newton is completed and a number of connections from existing properties have been made.

The work on the Chickerell Sewage Scheme is rapidly approaching completion and it may be possible that the scheme will be in commission in the late spring.

SWIMMING BATHS

There are no public swimming baths in the district.

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE DISTRICT

HOUSING

Inspections and visits carried out:-

Number of houses inspected	-	(a) Under Housing Act	81
		(b) Under Public Health Act	5
Number of return visits	-	(a) Under Housing Act	657
		(b) Under Public Health Act	30
Number of general visits			81
Number of visits in connection with overcrowding			6

Subsequent action taken and general progress:-

Summary of notices served	-	Informal	(a) Under Housing Act	69
			(b) Under Public Health Act	15
	-	Statutory	(a) Under Housing Act	
			(i) Closing Orders	6
			(ii) Demolition Orders	4
			(iii) Undertakings	1
			(iv) Repair	Nil
			(b) Under Public Health Act	1
Houses rendered fit after service of notices including those in respect of which notices were served in previous years.	-	Informal	(a) Under Housing Act	42
			(b) Under Public Health Act	7
	-	Statutory	(a) Under Housing Act	Nil
			(b) Under Public Health Act	2

Number of houses demolished during the year - 15 including 8 in Clearance Areas

WATER SUPPLY

In investigations of individual supplies, 5 notices have been served requiring connection to the main supply or improvement to existing facilities, and 3 notices have been complied with.

Sampling

Total number of samples taken	(a) From 6 Statutory Undertakings	88
	(b) From 39 Private Supplies	152
Results - Bacteriological examination	(a) Satisfactory (from 34 supplies)	127
	(b) Suspect (from 14 supplies)	44
	(c) Unsatisfactory (from 20 supplies)	69

FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1955

(a) Meat Inspection:-

	Cattle excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs	Total
Number killed	712	3120	1061	11021	25603	41517
Number inspected	712	3120	981	10987	25454	41254
<u>All diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticerci</u>						
Whole carcasses condemned	3	64	8	17	75	166
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	69	1614	17	432	4323	6460
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than Tuberculosis and Cysticerci	10.11	53.78	2.54	4.08	17.27	16.06

Meat Inspection (Contd.)

	Cattle excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs	Total
<u>Tuberculosis only</u>						
Whole carcasses condemned	-	6	-	-	6	12
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	17	233	13	-	401	664
Percentage of the number inspected affected with Tuberculosis	2.38	7.66	1.32	-	1.59	1.63
<u>Cysticercosis</u>						
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	2	3	-	-	-	5
Carcasses submitted to treatment by refrigeration	-	2	-	-	-	2
Generalised and totally condemned	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total weight of meat condemned - 44 tons 17 cwt. 2 qrs. 0 lbs.						

(b) Sampling:-

(i) Milk

Samples taken for Bacteriological examination 6

Samples taken for Biological examination Nil

(ii) Ice Cream

Samples taken 5

(c) Food Premises:-

There are a total number of 197 in the area comprising:-

Bakehouses	9
Butchers	7
Grocers, Post Offices etc., also selling food	68
Fried Fish Premises	1
Hotels, Public Houses and Guest Houses	63
School Canteens, including food service	25
Dairies	3
Food Factories	2
Food Premises	2
Cafes	13
Canteens and Snack Bars	4

Of these premises, 65 are registered under Section 16 (i) (a) for the sale of Ice Cream, and one under Section 16 (i) (b) for the preparation or manufacture of sausages or potted, pressed, pickled or preserved food intended for sale, of the Food and Drugs Act, 1955.

During the year 114 visits of inspection were made to food premises, and arising from these inspections 18 informal notices were served. During the same period 7 informal notices were complied with.

(d) Food Condemnation:-

The surrender has been accepted during the year of the following quantities of foodstuffs:-

(i) Tinned foodstuffs - 1 cwt. 3 qrs. 5 lbs. 10 ozs.

(ii) Other foodstuffs - 1 cwt. 2 qrs. 14 lbs.

Disposal of condemned food

(i) Meat, after staining, for animal feeding and manufacture into manures.

(ii) Tinned and similar foods, by burial.

Ice Cream (Heat Treatment) Regulations, 1947 - 1952

Ice Cream is not manufactured in this area.

RODENT CONTROL

The work carried out by the Council's Rodent Operators is shown in the following summary.

	Local Authority	Dwelling Houses	Agri- cultural	All Others	Total
Number of properties inspected as a result of					
(a) Notification	7	240	33	10	290
(b) Survey	12	4605	446	214	5277
(c) Otherwise	1	3	1	3	8
Total inspections carried out	20	4848	480	227	5575
Re-inspections carried out	3	15	35	16	69
Number of properties inspected which were found to be infested by					
(a) Rats - Major	2	-	4	-	6
Minor	13	512	57	28	610
(b) Mice - Major	-	2	-	-	2
Minor	-	111	11	4	126
Number of infested properties treated by Local Authority	12	582	50	15	659
Re-treatments	3	33	14	17	67
Number of notices served under Section 4					
(a) Treatment	-	-	3	1	4
Number of 'Block' control schemes carried out	- 3				

FACTORIES ACTS, 1947 & 1948

(a) Factories:-

	No. on Register	Inspections	Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 & 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	36	1	-	-
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is to be enforced by Local Authorities	100	41	5	-
(iii) Other premises in which Section 7 is to be enforced by Local Authorities	20	-	-	-
Total	156	42	5	-

Cases in which defects were found:-

	Found	Remedied	Referred		Prosecutions
			To H.M. Inspector	By H.M. Inspector	
Want of cleanliness (S.1)					
Overcrowding (S.2)					
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)					
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)					
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)					
Sanitary conveniences					
(a) Insufficient	12				
(b) Unsuitable or defective	8			2	
(c) Not separate for sexes	2				
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to outwork)	2				
Total	24			2	

FACTORIES ACTS (contd.)

(b) Outworkers:-

Number of Outworkers employed by:-

Wearing apparel manufacturers	30
Curtain and furniture hanging manufacturers	1
Net manufacturers	<u>75</u>
Total	<u>106</u>

Number of inspections carried out during the year by :-

(i) Public Health Officers

Housing	860
Food & Drugs	713
General Work	<u>1884</u>
	3457

(ii) Rodent Operators

<u>5644</u>
<u>9101</u>

